

Serial No.: 09/324,454

Group Art Unit: 2661

Examiner: Kenneth N. Vanderpuye

Remarks

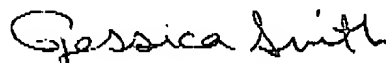
Claims 1-6, 8-11, 15, 18-25 remain in this application. Claims 7, 12, 13, 14 and 17 have been canceled. Claims 6, 8, 15 and 16 have been amended. Claims 26 through 29 have been added. Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment.

The Examiner indicated that claims 1 through 5 and 18 through 25 were allowed and that claims 7 through 17 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim 6 and any intervening claims. Thus, claim 6 has been rewritten to include the limitations of claim 7. Claim 26 has been added to include the limitations of claim 6 and claim 12. Claim 27 has been added to include the limitations of claim 6 and claim 13. Claim 28 has been added to include the limitations of claim 6 and claim 14. Claim 29 has been added to include the limitations of claim 6 and claim 17.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for his indications of allowance of the claims and requests reconsideration of the rejected claims and allowance of the newly amended claim 6 and new claims 26 through 28. Should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, please contact Jessica Smith at (972) 477-9109.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADEIn the claims:

6. (Amended) A method of failure notification in a communications network, the method comprising:

providing a communication network having at least two overlapping areas of nodes interconnected by communications links;

upon a failure event involving one of the communications links, broadcasting a failure message identifying the failed link, the broadcast being confined within the areas which includes the failed link; and

wherein broadcasting includes detecting the link failure at one or both of the nodes connected to the failed link, identifying nodes connected to the one or both detecting nodes that belong to the same areas as the failed and sending the failure message only to such identified nodes.

7. Please cancel claim 7.

8. (Amended) The method of Claim 6 [7] wherein broadcasting further includes:

at each node that receives the broadcast failure message, identifying nodes connected thereto which belong to the same areas as the failed link and sending the failure message only to such identified nodes.

12. Please cancel claim 12.

- 13. Please cancel claim 13.

14. Please cancel claim 14.

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15. (Amended) The method of Claim 28 [14] wherein sending at the detecting line card includes multicasting the failure message and periodically resending the failure message until an acknowledgment message is received from each of the other line cards.

16. (Amended) The method of Claim 28 [14] wherein the message bus carries high, and low priority messages and wherein sending at the detecting line card includes sending the failure message at high priority.

17. Please cancel claim 17.